

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	National Policy Dialogue on Hunger and Malnutrition
<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 10 September 2024 10:30 GMT +00:00
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Gregory Dery, Child Protection and Advocacy Manager, World Vision Ghana Event announced on behalf of the Convenor by: Barbara Asare. Coordinator of the ENOUGH Campaign Feedback published on behalf of Convenor by: Barbara Asare. coordinator for the ENOUGH Campaign
<b>EVENT LANGUAGE</b>	English
<b>HOST LOCATION</b>	Accra, Ghana
<b>GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE</b>	National Level
<b>AFFILIATIONS</b>	CSO SDG platform, the food and nutrition network, the SUN nutrition network
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55528/">https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55528/</a>



The outcomes from Nutrition Dialogues will contribute to developing and identifying the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all, with a focus on women and children and young people. Each Dialogue contributes in four distinct ways:

- Published as publicly available PDFs on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal
- Available as public data on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal "Explore Feedback" page
- Available publicly within a .xls file alongside all Feedback Form data for advanced analysis
- Synthesised into reports that cover which nutrition challenges are faced, what actions are urgently needed and how should these be taken forward - particular, in advance of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris, March 2025.

# SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

1

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	0	19-29
45	30-49	0	50-74	0	75+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

28	Female	17	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1	Children, Youth Groups and Students	15	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
0	Educators and Teachers	5	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	0	Food Producers (including farmers)
5	Healthcare Professionals	0	Indigenous Peoples
0	Information and Technology Providers	0	Large Business and Food Retailers
0	Marketing and Advertising Experts	15	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
5	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	0	Parents and Caregivers
0	Science and Academia	0	Small/Medium Enterprises
0	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
0	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

## OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

## ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

The stakeholder's dialogue was organized at the national level with participants from the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Services, CSOs, SDG goals 1,2 and 3, CSO SDG platform, the food and nutrition network, the SUN nutrition network, livelihood coalition, SEND Ghana, the Ghana education services, WVG staff and the media.

# SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

## FRAMING

The dialogue was structured in two parts with the first part on food security issues. The second session was focused on nutrition and school meals (school feeding program), moderated by a broader caster and journalist. Speakers included the •Director of Nutrition and micro-nutrient, Ministry of Health •Chair Scaling up Nutrition network, Ghana • Ghana Education Service School Health Education Program DIRECTOR •Country Director, SEND Ghana. The speakers gave highlight of the situation of hunger and food insecurity in the country. the state of the school feeding program was also discussed to access its impact on children's development.

## DISCUSSION

Child Health and Nutrition policies and gaps • The Ghana government has over 18 health policies and 17 international commitments to address the issues of nutrition • Governmental sectors such as agriculture and health should work together towards the achievement of nutrition. However, these sectors are often seen working in silos. • The government of Ghana should play its role along with other agencies to invest in the health of people rather than just rely solely on partners. • The government should own the development of policies and plans which aim at making communities self-sufficient and utilize what they have efficiently. • Strategies for community engagement to improve child nutrition. Community gatherings can be organized where parents discuss healthy ways to raise and feed their children. Community scorecards can be used to gather opinions on how they agree or disagree with some discussed topics. . Ghana School Feeding Program The Ghana School Feeding Program (GSFP) is an initiative of the comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) Pillar 3 which seeks to enhance food security and reduce hunger in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (on hunger, poverty and malnutrition). The basic concept of the program is to provide children in public primary schools with one hot nutritious meal, prepared from locally grown foodstuffs, on every school going day. The aim is to spend 80% of the feeding cost in the local economy.

# SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

## CHALLENGES

Limitations of the school feeding programme

- Poor quality food served to the children by caterers
- Irregularity of food served contrary to the concept of providing one nutritious meal for every school going day
- Delay in government payment of caterers to ensure regular nutritious food for children
- The amount per child per day is so insignificant ie ghc1.20 given the current economic situation, rising cost of food etc.
- o Funds are needed and should be raised by government and partners to be able to tackle malnutrition in Ghana- locally.
- o Delivery and access to services should be made available. Government must ensure that they can employ and train more staff to provide such services.

## URGENT ACTIONS

Policy ASKS

- Government should increase budget allocation to sustain the school feeding programme
- Government should improve the quality of food served to meet the nutrition needs of the children
- Government should design a framework for the recruitment of qualified and resourceful caterers for the school feeding programme
- Ensure collaboration between The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Finance
- Increase the coverage of the school feeding program to harder to reach and deprived communities,

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Area of policy gaps. Participants were of the view that government should strengthen the implementation of policies and fund sustainable agriculture. Other were of the view that the effect of illegal mining on water bodies, land and agriculture should be declared as a national emergency. Nutrition goes hand in hand with Water Sanitation & Hygiene. others also were of the view that we have enough food in the country, but inadequate storage facilities and post-harvest loss continue to be the challenge.

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## OVERALL SUMMARY

Global instability is affecting the availability of food and nutrition for children, their families and communities. An unprecedented global hunger and malnutrition crisis is looming before our eyes. The recent drought in Northern Ghana is evident of an eminent hunger situation soon to hit the country, most especially the most vulnerable children. It is on this note that World Vision Ghana with support from the local to global team organized a stakeholder policy dialogues on food security, child hunger and Nutrition.

Child Health and Nutrition policies and gaps

- The Ghana government has over 18 health policies and 17 international commitments to address the issues of nutrition but there are policy gaps that need to be addressed

- Strategies for community engagement to improve child nutrition s should be developed.

Community gatherings can be organized where parents discuss healthy ways to raise and feed their children.

Community scorecards can be used to gather opinions on how they agree or disagree with some discussed topics.

School Health and Nutrition

The burden of childhood malnutrition has become an issue of public health concern. Early in life (during childhood and adolescent years), adequate nutrition is essential for growth, development, health and well-being. This is important for enabling a child to reach his/her potential for physical, mental growth and development. Research has shown that under nutrition during early years impairs children's cognitive development as well as their ability to explore their environments.

Initiatives of the Ghana school feeding program

- School Feeding Program have incorporated creative ways of innovation where menus and of foods to be eaten and some to be avoided. These are illustrated to show detailed benefits and nutritional values of most foods to be consumed.

- Other educational posters are to be created to educate children on how to avoid some sickness through personal hygiene.

- School meals are monitored by nutritionist to ensure it meets the dietary requirements of children

- Children are provided with fruits to complement the food

- The Ghana school feeding program has developed a menu for the feeding of the children for each day

- Government should implement plans that bring both Nutrition sensitive and specific solutions on board. For the nutrition of citizen of the nation determines the performance of growth of the country's economy and development.

- o Funds are needed and should be raised by government and partners to be able to tackle malnutrition in Ghana- locally.

- o Delivery and access to services should be made available. Government must ensure that they can employ and train more staff to provide such services.

# SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

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## PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The dialogue took the form of panel discussion after which the time was allocated for questions and answers and recommendations. Participants were given the opportunity to freely express themselves and contribute to the discussions. Opinions and contributions of all participants were given due attention. Stakeholders were drawn from different sectors such as Education, Health, WASH, SDG Platform, media etc to bring in their expertise to enrich the discussions. The dialogue took place in a safe and friendly environment accessible to all.

## METHOD AND SETTING

The dialogue was conducted in a formal setting which was made safe and conducive for participants. The method of the dialogue was mainly a panel discussion and a session for questions & answers and recommendations.

## ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

Stakeholders from different sectors enrich the discussions. Experts to facilitate and share discussions and share learnings. Media presence necessary to promote issues of nutrition.

# FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appreciation to participants who made time to be part of the dialogue. the media that published stories and the Child protection and advocacy manager who led the process. and to WVI local to global advocacy team who supported with funding for the Policy Dialogue

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **World Vision Ghana's Policy Dialogue prioritises issues of food insecurity, child hunger**  
<https://www.businessghana.com/site/news/general/314022/World-Vision-Ghana-s-Policy-Dialogue-prioritises-issues-of-food-insecurity-child-hunger>
- [https://gna.org.gh/2024/09/world-vision-ghanas-policy-dialogue-prioritises-issues-of-food-insecurity-child-hunger/#google\\_vignette](https://gna.org.gh/2024/09/world-vision-ghanas-policy-dialogue-prioritises-issues-of-food-insecurity-child-hunger/#google_vignette)
- [https://www.linkedin.com/feed/?highlightedUpdateUrn=urn%3Ali%3Aactivity%3A7239590595231379457&trk=eml-email\\_last\\_week\\_from\\_your\\_company\\_01-network~post-0-wrapper~link](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/?highlightedUpdateUrn=urn%3Ali%3Aactivity%3A7239590595231379457&trk=eml-email_last_week_from_your_company_01-network~post-0-wrapper~link)

## ATTACHMENTS

- **Report**  
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/WVG-Highlights-of-Policy-dialogue-24.docx>